

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) A tubular expansion tank, comprising:

 a pressure assembly having a passage fitting through which water flows into and out of the tank providing fluidic communication between an interior and an exterior of the pressure assembly; and

 a water chamber assembly comprising:

 a tube having first and second ends, wherein the first end has at least one slot open to the first end of the tube;

 a cylindrical diaphragm disposed about the tube, wherein the slot provides fluidic communication between an interior of the tube and an interior of the diaphragm; and

 a collar providing fluidic communication between the passage fitting and the interior of the tube, wherein a first end of the diaphragm is sealingly fitted to a portion of the collar.

2.(original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, further comprising a valve providing controllable fluidic communication between an exterior of the tank and a space between the pressure assembly and the diaphragm.

3. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, wherein the pressure assembly is metallic and comprises first and second domes sealingly affixed to one another, wherein the passage fitting is disposed in one of the first and second domes.

4. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, wherein a portion of the collar has an outer diameter that is approximately equal to an inner diameter of the diaphragm.

5. (previously presented) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, wherein the first end of the tube has a plurality of slots.

6. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, wherein the water chamber assembly further comprises a cap disposed at the second end of the tube to which a second end of the diaphragm is sealingly fitted.

7. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 6, wherein the cap is sealingly attached to the second end of the tube.

8. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 1, wherein the tank is adapted and constructed such that at least a middle portion of the diaphragm is configured to contact the tube at normal operating pressures.

9.(currently amended) A tubular expansion tank, comprising:
a metallic pressure assembly, comprising:
first and second domes joined by a welded joint to form a chamber; and
a fitting attached to the first dome and adapted and constructed for connection to a plumbing system and through which water flows into and out of the tank providing fluidic communication between an interior and an exterior of the pressure assembly; and
a water chamber assembly, comprising:

 a tube having first and second ends;
 a cylindrical diaphragm disposed about the tube, wherein an interior of the diaphragm is in fluidic communication with an interior of the tube via at least one slot disposed at the first end of the tube and open to the first end of the tube; and
 a collar providing fluidic communication between the fitting and the interior of the tube, wherein a first end of the diaphragm is sealingly affixed to a portion of the collar.

10.(original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 9, further comprising a valve providing controllable fluidic communication between an exterior of the tank and a space between the metallic pressure assembly and the diaphragm, wherein the valve is disposed in a wall of one of the domes.

11. Cancelled

12. (previously presented) The tubular expansion tank of claim 9, wherein the first end of the tube has a plurality of slots.

13. (original) The tubular expansion tank of claim 9, wherein the tank is adapted and constructed such that at least a middle portion of the diaphragm is configured to contact the tube at normal operating pressures.

14.(currently amended) A preassembled water chamber assembly for an expansion tank, comprising:

a tube having first and second ends;

a collar disposed at the first end of the tube;

a cap ~~disposed at that closes~~ the second end of the tube; and

a resilient diaphragm having first and second ends, wherein the first end of the diaphragm is sealingly fitted about the collar and the second end of the diaphragm is sealingly fitted about the cap, wherein the first end of the tube has at least one slot providing fluidic communication between an interior of the tube and an interior of the diaphragm and wherein the slot is open to the first end of the tube.

15. Cancelled

16.(previously presented) The water chamber assembly of claim 14, wherein the first end of the tube has a plurality of slots.

17.(original) The water chamber assembly of claim 14, wherein the collar comprises two portions having different exterior diameters, and wherein the exterior diameter of one of the portions is the same as the exterior diameter of the cap.

18.(original) The water chamber assembly of claim 14, wherein the cap is sealingly attached to the second end of the tube.